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OTR 76-6871  
6 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director  
FROM : [REDACTED]  
Deputy Director for Operations Training  
VIA : Director of Training  
Deputy Director for Administration  
SUBJECT : Interview by a Richmond Newsman

*John*  
10 DEC 1976

Andrew:

1. The attached letter is from Ed Alwood, a very bright young black newsman who heard a talk I gave before the Focus Club in Richmond on 17 November. (See attached memo.)

2. Ed called last week to ask if I would allow myself to be interviewed by him in his capacity as a free-lance writer for the Christian Science Monitor. I was rather dubious about the matter on the phone, said I would have to check it out, and asked him to put his thoughts down in a letter. This he has done.

3. This is the third time I have been asked by a newsman to grant an interview. In May 1975, quite to my surprise, Bill Colby allowed me to give an anonymous interview to Bernie Krisher of Newsweek, which appeared in the international editions of that magazine on 23 June 1975. A subsequent request from a friend with the Wall Street Journal was turned down with the comment that the Newsweek article had been good but that we should not go to the well too often. (A concept I agree with.)

4. I have no brief for or against Ed's approach, but feel that you should know about it. He has a TV news show in Richmond, and appeared to be quite supportive of the Agency in terms of questions he asked in Richmond, his letter, and his phone conversation.

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5. As it is my hope to once again go overseas for the DDO, I am not anxious to develop into any sort of "media figure." (The recent Counterspy piece gives me all the notoriety I need, and then some.) I thus would not want, in any case, to have my name appear in an article which Ed might concoct. I rather doubt that Ed would be interested in doing a piece with no names, and in fact I laid the grounds for a polite turndown in my phone conversation.

6. I will be guided by your reaction, but I am more negative than positive on this offer.



Attachment

Distribution:

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